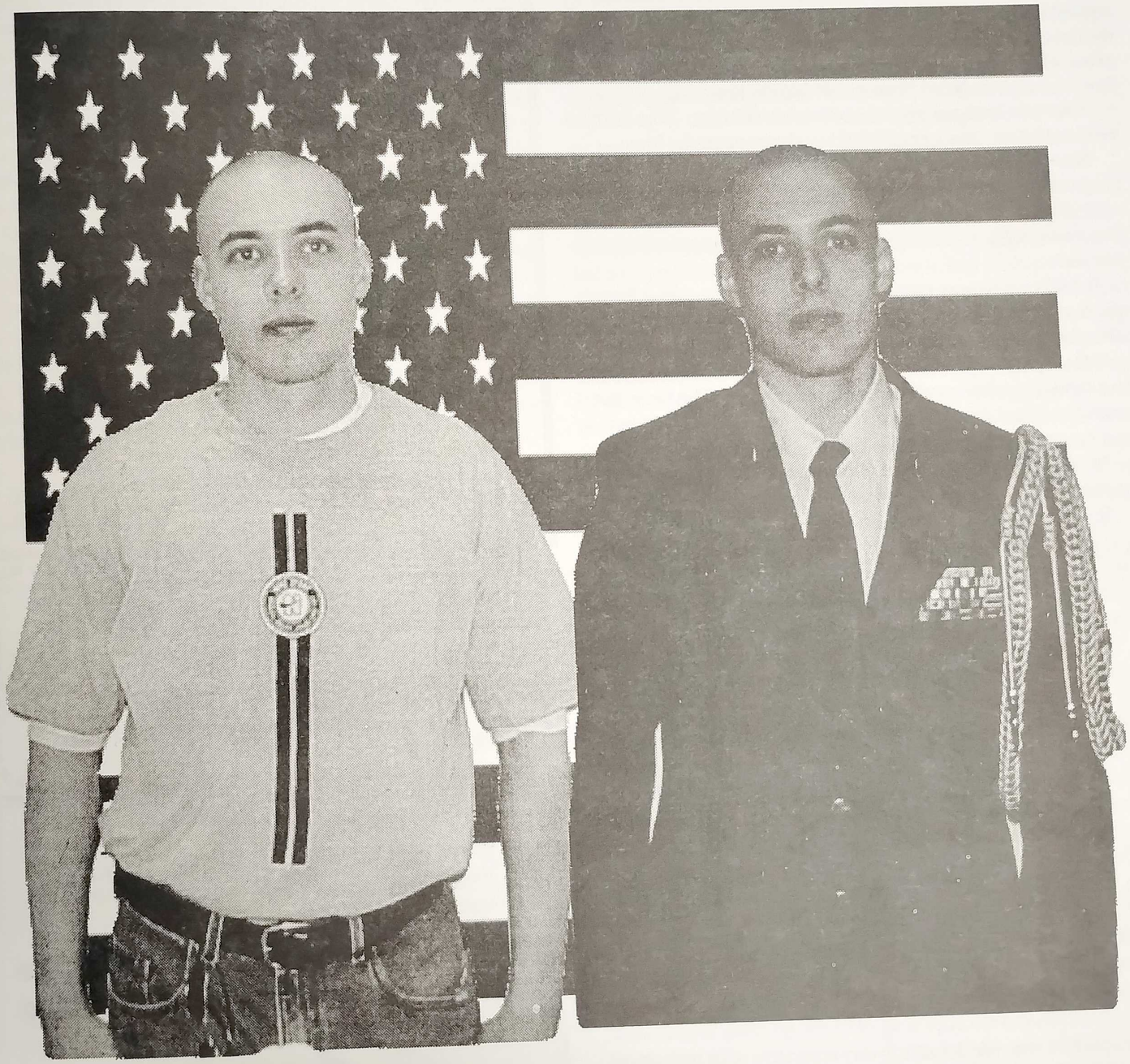
THE REDBIRD WORD

Vol. 36 March/April 2003 No. 7

ARE WE READY FOR WAR?



"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." – Edmund Burke

Alton High School ~ 2200 College Ave. ~ Alton, IL. 62002

Ode to the Arches

Andrea Zimmermann, co-editor

As a young girl of three or four, I always had a fascination with McDonald's Restaurant and its famous french fries. On long car rides, I could spot those golden arches from miles away. Furiously kicking my legs in the car seat, I would shout, "Fries!" My parents, ignoring their daughter's pleas for nourishment, would drive past that lovely palace of grease without hesitation. My cries for the fried delicacy became frantic then crushed as the arches began to fade into oblivion.

Over time, I outgrew my crazed obsession with fries . Now, I work at the blessed place. Since June 2002, I have been *making* the fries.

Now that I am on the flip side, there are a few things I have learned from working for the King of Fast-Food.

* When feeling overly ecstatic about your job , remember they could save money and train a monkey to do it. That is guaranteed to put you in your place.

* McDonald's beats manners into their employees, at least the ones who have direct contact with the customers. I am now in the unfortunate habit of telling strangers, "Have a nice day!"

* On my first day of work, I was told, "A fast, accurate and friendly drive-thru is crucial to the satisfaction of the customer." This means that if a customer comes through and orders $26 worth of food, I still have to serve the customer in 150 seconds.

* Make sure the fries are *so* hot that they are dripping with oil. Also, do not cheat them out of three fries, because they *will* count.

There is one more minor detail in a fast-food restaurant that can drive an employee crazy. It is the timers on *every* piece of equipment in the store. Any customer has surely heard at least one or two of the timers go off while trying to order a hamburger, perhaps even four or five of the beeping monsters.

While working one day last month, I had an epiphany. Not one telling me that this job is driving me insane, but that the beeping reminded me a lot of *The Tell-Tale Heart* by Edgar Allen Poe.

Perhaps I have an over-acuteness of the senses-- now there came to my ear a low dull sound and I knew *that* sound well. It was the beeping of the fry station, the register, the grill, the quality timers and the drive-thru. Yet, I stood still, continuing to take orders and smile. While I keep a steady gaze on the customer, the noise became quicker and quicker every instant.

Even now, during my sixth hour of working, hearing those dreadful beeps, I felt as though my eardrums may burst. Surely these beeps are heard by the customer standing in front of me. The final hour of the beeps had come. With a loud yell, I ran to the source, banging on the equipment, then there was a bright light shining in my eyes. My father had come into my room to wake me from my nightmare. Lucky for me, it was only a dream. Then I rolled over looked at my clock and got ready to go to work.

On a positive note, McDonald's is very supportive of its high school employees' education. The variety of jobs available enable them to also hire disabled people.

To make a long story short, I am still able to eat the food, but I do have malice in my voice when I say the word, "Fries."

RBW Roster

Co-editors	Andrea Zimmermann
	Sarahjay Whitney
Managing editor	Courtney Schien
News editor	Kenny Ross
Features editor	Andrea Zimmermann
Entertainment editor	Carl McMullen
Sports editor	Blake Schrumpf
Copy editor	Alex McMullen
Cover story editor	Sarahjay Whitney
Humor editor	Joe Hilgard
Backpage editor	Amy Stabell
Business manager	Amanda Thomas
Senior editors	Rickey Millitello
	Anthony Gater
Reporters	Jeff McDonald
	Kristin Hammond
	Erin Hill
	Zac West
	Audrey Wildhagen
Artist	Jamie Heusinkveld
Photographer	Sarah Cleaves
Newspaper advisor	Annice Brave
Printing advisor	Robert Tucker

Mission Statement of RBW

We strive to present the student body with information that is entertaining, diverse and professional.

Congratulations to

Travis Wuellner,

the winner of the 'Find the Hearts' contest from the February edition. Travis won two tickets to the Mr. Irresistible Contest.

Voice your opinion of the RedBird Word by sending a letter to the co-editors in room 401 or send an e-mail at RedBird_Word@yahoo.com

Letter to the editors: Society lacks values

The January edition of *The RedBird Word* housed a fine representation of the Alton High School Music and Fine Arts departments. This read very pleasantly. Sometimes, the great amount of time and effort students and teachers infuse into the departments seems to go unrealized. After seeing the football team receive an excellent send-off, delivered by the band and cheerleaders, I wondered if it would be possible to give the record breaking sixteen music students a similar send-off to their excursion at the Illinois Music Educator Association's All-State Festival.

Disappointment set in when the reply came; the student body would probably not be respectful or receptive enough for this to happen. No teachers or administrators should be blamed for this sad truth, but it is exceedingly pathetic. As President of Thespian Troop 126 and Vice-President of Concert Choir, I would like to *The RedBird Word* and its staff for its continuing support of Alton High's Fine Arts Departments. Continue your great job of representing all school clubs and organizations.

Sincerely,
Brandon Krepel

Carl McMullen, entertainment editor

My epiphany about the loss of morals in society came nearly a month ago. Cheating hit close too home for me this year, and thoughts of disappointment, anger and betrayal filled my head for months. Then, finally I realized the truth-- Americans have lost their sense of moral accountability.

In my situation, I discovered the hidden agendas and ulterior motives of people. I gained a thick skin as I absorbed all the fabrications and insults conjured up by defensive minds. The reality of the situation broke down my sense of trust for others, but it built up my sense of caution when dealing with people.

On a far grander scale in the public eye, former President Bill Clinton broke the trust of the entire country. Americans cried out for accountability from our President, and none was offered. He vehemently denied his affair, and American's were left with a bad taste in their mouths.

The degradation of values has saturated pop culture. Television shows like *Joe Millionaire* and *Married by America* promote immorality by appealing to the lowest denominator of society. The irreverent nature of television has impeded the progress of mothers and fathers across the country.

In a society infatuated with shock-appeal, boys and girls are taught at young ages that actions don't have repercussions and that the feelings of others are unimportant. America needs to refocus its attention on teaching children the difference between right and wrong at a young age. Actions may speak louder than words, both can move mountains in the minds of impartial children.

School board to increase fees for next year

Sarahjay Whitney, co-editor

With the Illinois statewide budget deficit, school board members fear that AHS will not receive its usual funding from the state. As a result, students face the possibility of losing 125 teachers for the next year and experiencing a steep rise in parking permit fees, book fees, instrument rental fees, driving fees, athletic fees and other miscellaneous expenses.

"It will be more expensive for parents to send kids to Alton High next year," commented Principal Phil Trapani. The school board has come up with several possible solutions to help balance the school budget for next year. Nothing has been decided yet.

One solution proposed by the board is that any students wishing to enroll in a music class would pay a $75 participation fee. Under this suggestion, middle school students would be required to pay $50 and elementary students required to pay $45 if they wanted to play in the band or orchestra or sing in the chorus. If this suggestion becomes policy, parents would pay a total of $530 for one student who remained in the music program fourth through twelfth grades.

The music department is concerned about the school board's action of lumping music in with the extracurricular activities; activities for which students don't receive grades.

There is more to fine arts than just after school rehearsals, Mrs. Plummer, orchestra director, explains: "All of the fine arts, not just music, are the only curricula which focus solely on the students' creative sides. This creative process is very important and is what makes us human. Our curricula gets to the core of our students' expressive natures."

Another solution raises the cost of athletic fees. AHS students would pay $75, while the middle school students pay $50. Athletic director, Coach Mike Brey commented, " Overall the financial situation of the district is questionable. Because it is causing cuts in every department, we are getting hit hard."

He went on to explain that next year there will be a 15% cut from the sports budget, which includes the equipment and supplies funds. Two coaches, the assistant athletic director, and three middle school sports (cross country, baseball and softball) will be cut. However, the Athletic Association is looking for ways to privately fund the three middle school sports.

Mr. Trapani commented about the $190 increase in auto safety fees by saying that even though the increase is significant, it will still be much cheaper than taking private driving lessons.

As of March 11, the Finance Committee, made of up three members of the school board, had yet to implement any final decision and welcomed open dialogue from faculty, parents, and students on the issue. Mrs. Ann Davis, choral director of AHS stated that the school board is doing their best to solve the financial difficulties.

"Nobody wants to pay more," said Mrs. Davis, "It [the financial burden] should be shared among the student body, not within one particular group. It takes everyone working together to get the job done."

WYSE physics wins first

Joe Hilgard, humor editor

The AHS World Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) team placed first in physics at the WYSE Academic Challenge Sectional at SIUE on March 3. The AHS team also took second place in chemistry and engineering graphics.

The members of this year's WYSE team are juniors: Carl Allendorph, Ian Brake, Joe Holleran and Daniel Richnak; seniors: Lindsey Dubree, Joe Hilgard, Regan Joehl, Chris Lauschke, Jeff McDonald, Carl McMullen, Lance Martin, Thomas Shimunek, Amy Stabell, and Aaron Veight.

Each member of the team takes any two tests out of seven different subjects: Physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, English, computers, and engineering graphics.

Joe Hilgard took a first place in physics and a second place in chemistry. Individuals placing in the top two of any subject receive an award of $100 and get to advance to state competition at University of Illinois.

"This might be our best year ever at state," said Mrs. Nancy Meggos, head of the AHS physics department.

WYSE Academic Challenge members are chosen from the members of WYSE. Juniors try out for the team by taking practice tests in several of the subjects during science class. Sophomores may be placed on the team in special circumstances.

Capitol city hears AHS choir

Andrea Zimmermann, co-editor

For musicians, the chance to make beautiful music is the ultimate dream. For the AHS Concert choir, it was a reality on March 12 during their performance at the Hall of Flags in Springfield, Illinois.

"It was absolutely awesome experience performing in the Hall. It was probably our best performance of the year," said Anne Davis, choir director of 7 years.

Five choral students travelled to Springfield early to sing in the Rotunda in the Capitol Building. They were a part of the prestigious All-State Festival in January.

"The stomp at the end of 'Hiney Mah Tov' sounded like at thunderbolt coming down the Hall," said senior, Amber Evans.

The climax of the day came when the entire choir joined together to sing a set of songs in the Hall of Flags. "It gave me chills when we sang 'Alleluia'," said junior, Franklin Johnson. The Hall is long and narrow which causes it to be perfect for singing, according to Mrs. Davis.

State Senator Bill Haine (D-Alton), also stopped to watch the performance.

"It felt really nice singing in front of so many important people who took time out of their day to listen to us," said senior, Brandon Krepel.

Zelda and the Wind Waker sails to stores

Laura Gossett

Ever since the debut of T*he Legend of Zelda* in 1987, the game has had cult following. With innovative characters and plots, the series of games have branched out to mulitiple fanbases.

In 1998 more video game players joined the fanbase with the debut of *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time* for Nintendo 64. This game took the main character, Link, into a whole new demension: 3-D. Anticipation has reached a screaming roar for the March 24 release of *The Legend of Zelda: The WindWaker* for Gamecube.

Starting February 16, Nintendo has offered a special extra for fans. With a deposit on *The WindWaker*, fans will receive a limited-edition disc featuring two extra games: *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time* and T*he Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time Master Quest*, a previously unreleased version available only in Japan.

In *The WindWaker*, Nintendo added a new element to the plot of the Zelda series. In it, Link's sister, Arill, is kidnapped during his twelfth birthday, and the game takes place in a vast sea. Fans of the Gamecube can utilize a Game Boy Advance Cable to connect to a Game Boy Advance for access to new items and features.

The *Legend of Zelda: The WindWaker* will retail for $49.95 and is available on March 24 to all or can be preordered online. For more information, visit *www.Zelda.com.*

King's *On Writing* brings an original read to the traditional 'how to' advice

Audrey Wildhagen

Stephen King's *On Writing* is a must for any aspiring writer. Unlike most books about writing, it is not a "how to" manual. It doesn't list topic suggestions, writing exercises or magical cures for writer's block. If you are looking for such a book, search elsewhere.

Rather than cram mechanical writing rules down the reader's throat, King begins by weaving a captivating tale about his fascination and love for the craft of writing. Beginning from childhood, where he was inspired by his *Combat Casey* comics and horror films such as *The Attack of the Fifty Foot Woman*. He tells of his personal experiences in his life that drove him to write. These range from the first time he was published to his struggles with his first novel, *Carrie.*

Afterwards, King gives advice on the subject of writing, using examples from his own first drafts and excerpts from other novels as well. He stresses that "The adverb is not your friend." and that "If you don't have the time to read, you don't have the time or the tools to write."

Covering subjects such as character development and dialogue, he gives his own viewpoints and techniques he uses for writing. Hilarious, inspiring and touchingly personal, King's memoir will have readers unable to put the book down.

Japanese invade via small and big screen

Amanda Higgins

For anyone who has ever watched television shows such as *Speed Racer* or *Salior Moon,* they may not have known it but they were watching Japanese animation. Known as japanimation in its earlier stages, anime has changed from a cartoon from another country to a whole new culture with qualities all its own.

Anime is defined by common non-Japanese fan usage as any animation made in Japan. According to *Anime Essentials Everything a Fan Needs to Know*, Gilles Poitras, the first modern anime was created in June of 1962.

Most animes start out in Japan as short comic book series known as manages, if the mangas are successful enough they ae animated and voices are added turning them into animes. Series of anime may last anywhere from 25 to 20o episodes, movies and specials may also be added.

Many fans of anime have adopted the Japanese word "otaku" which translates as "devoted fan." Media in Japan used to use otaku as a dangerous fixation with a certain object, but today all around the world fans call themselves otaku with pride.

Anime centers around moral values such as hope and love and being the one can be. Many times during the year, anime festivals are held in hotels and convention centers across the country. They help to bring anime fans together with the people who are responsible for bringing anime to America.

Anime can be for everyone, shows like *Hamtaro* interest younger age groups where as middle and high school students may enjoy shows such as *Gundam Wing*. Many companies have been created by putting out anime magazines such as "Animerica: Anime and Manga Monthly" and "Newtype."

In American, anime can be seen on Cartoon Network and TechTV and purchased in Suncoast and Sam Goody stores. "Blockbuster" stores also carry anime and it can be found on the internet. Some of the most popular anime includes *Inu Yasha, Cowboy Bebop, Fushigi Yugi, Ah! My Goddess, Tenchi Muyo, Ranma 1/2 and Dragon Ball Z.*

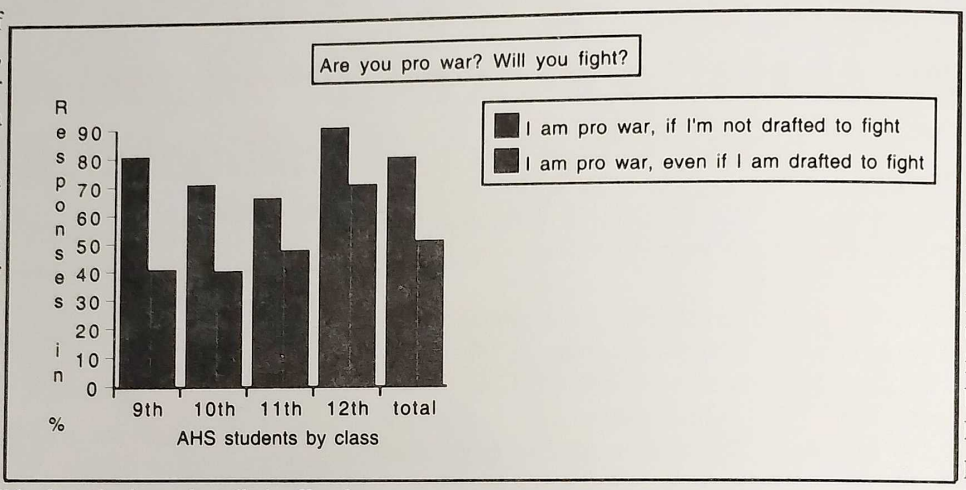
The voice of AHS students

March/April Opinion

A storm brews in the eastern desert and UN Secu

The sounds of tank engines grumbling, fighter jets screeching overhead and the footsteps of thousands of soldiers marching, pierce the late night sky over Kuwait. This is the sound of a mighty host gathering for war. The United States, under the leadership of President George W. Bush, is preparing to embark on a crusade to rid the world of Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein.

Events are quickly coming to a head. President Bush prepares to take the final plunge and send over 250,000 allied troops into Iraq, where there is a possibility that biological and chemical weapons will be launched as a last ditch effort by Saddam.



All that is stopping the United States from a campaign in the desert is a crucial vote in the United Nations Security Council. Yet, many AHS students don't even know what the UN Security Council is or why this vote is so crucial. A recent poll of AHS students has found that a majority understand what the UN is but not the exact role it plays in world affairs.

"What does all this talk of veto mean?"

~freshman, Joey Yancy

The UN was created in the wake of World War II as an international forum to provide a peaceful place to avoid conflict and to stop aggression. It is a village council for the world. The Secretary General, currently Kofi Annan, is in charge, but in reality is more of a figurehead.

The real power of the UN is in the Security Council, with its five permanent and ten non-permanent members. A recent survey of students found that only seven percent of students knew who the permanent members are. The five permanent members have the exclusive right to veto a measure brought up for a vote, which would automatically kill it. The permanent members are the big winners of World War II: France, Great Britain, China, Russia (formerly the Soviet Union) and the United States.

The non-permanent members are chosen every two years by the General Assembly of the UN. They do not have the right to a veto, yet for a resolution to pass, nine votes are needed with no permanent members vetoing it.

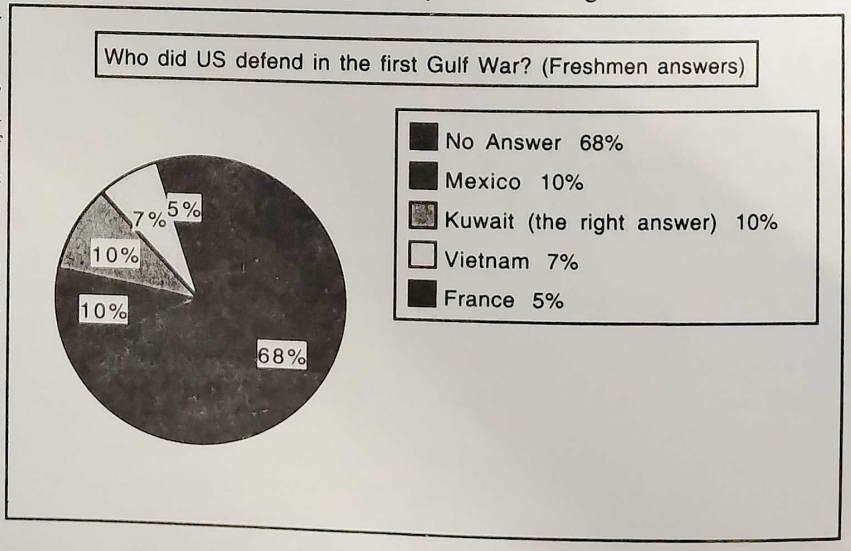
"If France and Germany are our friends, how come they are moving against us in the UN; why are they not voting to remove Saddam from power?" asks John Waters, senior.

France and Germany don't necessarily want to see Saddam Hussein remain in power or let him have weapons of mass destruction. They just have a different idea of how to go about forcing a regime change and banning weapons of mass destruction.

When Saddam was defeated in the first Gulf War, the peace treaty he signed carried a provision stating that UN weapon inspectors would be allowed into his nation to supervise the destruction of his biological, chemical and nuclear programs. In the years since he signed that peace treaty, Saddam has played a cat and mouse game with the inspectors and he has yet to destroy his banned weapon programs.

When the events of September 11 shattered the United States and news began to surface that Iraq had connections to al-Qaeda, President Bush started to worry. What if future al-Qaeda attacks include using a plane full of anthrax or starting a small pox epidemic? The casualties could be in the millions. President Bush became determined to destroy Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

America and the UN persuaded Saddam to let the weapon inspectors back in after an absence of years. Again, Saddam played the same game as usual and hid his weapons and sent the inspectors on a wild goose chase in a country the size of California. For President Bush, this was enough for him to begin gathering military forces in the region. In his mind, the United States does not have the time to wait.



Bush has since gone to the UN Security Council asking for a resolu-

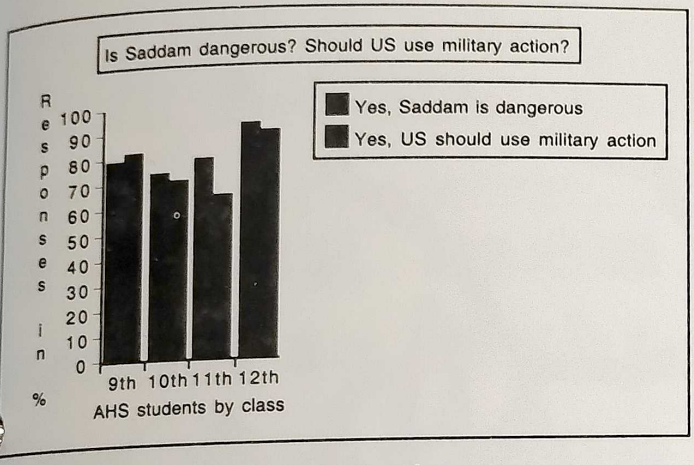
speak out in favor of war

curity Council prepares

tion allowing for military action to remove Saddam from power. According to the first UN resolution in 1993, he can do that. France and Germany, who are both on the council right now, oppose military action.

By not endorsing the removal of Saddam, France and Germany have exposed a hidden agenda. France has signed oil contracts worth billions of dollars with the Iraqi dictator. They will see none of the money if he is removed from power.

Also, France and Germany don't want to be seen as towing the line set by the United States. The current government in Germany was elected



specifically on a platform of opposing America.

President Bush has stated that he is prepared to go into Iraq alone if need be, yet he would like all the support he can get.

Less than half of AHS students want President Bush to go into Iraq alone, and nearly three-quarters want America to go to war with the support of the UN, a view that is mirrored by the nation as a whole. This is a main reason why President Bush called upon the UN to sanction action taken against Iraq.

"This war will make us afraid. Our school will have different opinions. I hope a result is more patriotism even in the face of disagreement and a sensitivity to ones with loved ones in the conflict."

~Principal, Phil Trapani

Without UN support, the United States would not be acting unilaterally. Traditional allies like Great Britain, Kuwait and Australia all have said they will support America regardless of the outcome of a UN Security Council vote.

Now that the inevitable war has commenced, every country has "shown its cards." President Bush has stated that he will do everything in his power to bring a speedy and victorious end to the conflict. He has called upon the Iraqi people to rise up and depose the dictator that has ruled their country for nearly three decades. In the words of AHS history teacher Mr. Day, "Hopefully, the justice of humanity will prevail."

Polled AHS students support the war in Iraq

Recently, the *RedBird Word* staff conducted a survey of AHS students about the certainty of war in Iraq. The survey covered all the different angles of the crisis, from the UN Security Council to where Iraq is located on a map.

According to the results, a vast majority of AHS students believe Saddam Hussein constitutes a threat to the security of the United States and stand firmly behind military action to remove him from power.

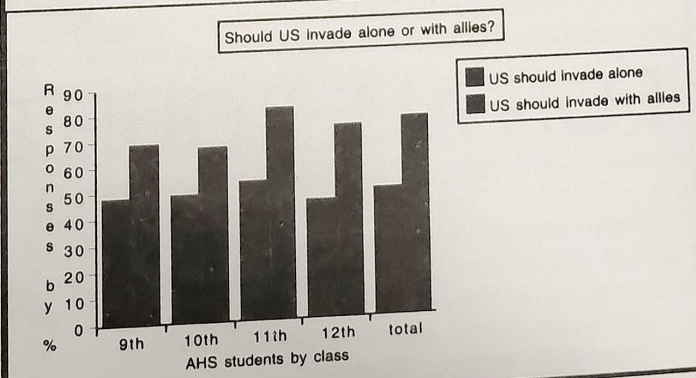
The poll showed that AHS students are not well informed about the situation in Iraq. Only 7 percent of one hundred and fifty students polled knew who the permanent members of the UN Security Council are. However, nearly everyone polled knew the reason why the UN weapon inspectors are in Iraq and what they are searching for there.

All four classes were asked what nation the United States moved to defend in the first Gulf War. As a whole, it was found that only one-fourth of students polled knew the correct answer, which is Kuwait. The other three-fourths wrote a variety of answers, ranging from France to Vietnam.

The majority of the freshmen class believes that during the first Gulf War the United States fought to defend Mexico. Principal Phil Trapani, "Inability to answer is due to the fact that high school students don't pay attention to current events."

A vast majority (85 percent) of AHS students knew that Baghdad was the capital of Iraq and could identify Iraq on a map of the Middle East.

The true character of AHS students showed when asked if they would serve, when it comes to war with Iraq. Fifty percent of students stated they would serve their country if drafted by fighting to remove the Iraqi dictator. However, many students answered that they supported the war but then said they would not serve if drafted.



Stories and survey by Kenny Ross, news editor
Layout and graphs by Sarahjay Whitney, coverstory editor

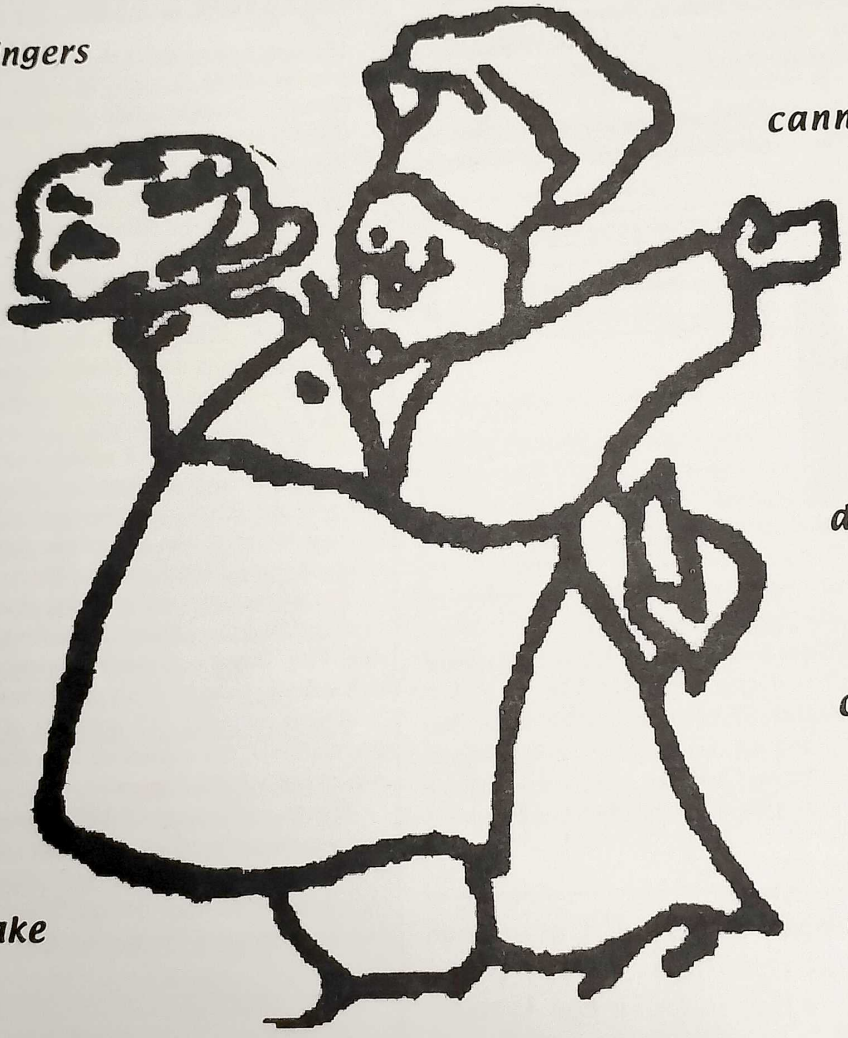
DUKE BAKERY

pies

duke fingers

cannolis

bread



donuts

cakes

danish

cookies

creme horns

cheese cake

eclairs

FOR ALL YOUR BAKED GOODIES!

Come visit either of our two locations:

ALTON BAKERY
819 Henry Street

GODFREY BAKERY
5407 C Godfrey Road

The Cat in the Hat reads to America

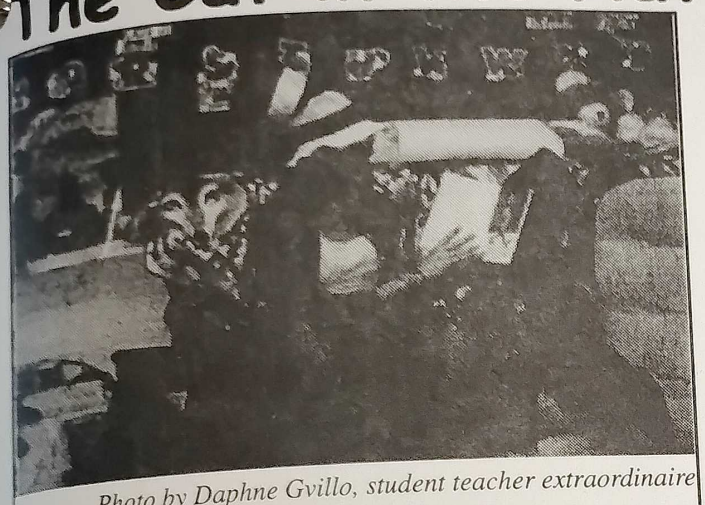


Photo by Daphne Gvillo, student teacher extraordinaire
Allison York reads Dr. Suess at Lewis and Clark Elementary.

Amy Stabell, backpage editor

The Quill and Scroll Society read to the students at Lewis and Clark Elementary on March 7. This was part of a nationwide event, sponsored by the NEA, called Read Across America. The day honors Dr. Suess, a famous children's author.

Senior Allison York said, "When we got done reading, my class asked if they could give me a hug. It was the cutest thing ever,"

Senior Rickey Millitello had the honor of dressing as the Cat in the Hat. "The coolest part of it was when we were eating at Taco Bell. A little kid was standing behind me and was scared until I turned around. It was great watching him smile," he said.

Young men leave to fight for America

Claire Yanta

Continuing family tradition means a lot to senior Adam Bennett. That's why he's keeping it in the family and joining the U.S. National Marine Corps in July.

Bennett's grandfather, father and brother have all been a part of the armed services, and he has been dreaming of entering since a young age. "I've always wanted to defend my country," he said.

One of the questions Bennett encounters often is why he's joining during the time of war. His reply is always along the lines of, "I know it's my duty to defend my country and homeland, and everyone has something they have to do in life. I know my call is to be proud of where I'm from and protect it."

Something that makes this situation more interesting is that Bennett is going into the Marines with fellow senior Brian Young. Bennett said that deciding to enter was hard enough but joining with one of his best friends made the decision so much easier.

The will to want to go and keep going is something else Bennett and Young have found within each other. "When I'm lifting weights while working out and I know Brian is almost neck and neck with me in weight, that gives me the motivation to lift more and push myself to excellence." Both know that these experiences will cause them to strive for success while serving their country and for the rest of their lives.

Bennett and Young will leave for the Marines in July.

AHS celebrates Women's History Month

Amanda Thomas, business editor

If you've recently walked down the halls of the Annex, you may have noticed the portraits of many influential women on display. These women are receiving recognition, not only because of their great accomplishments, but also because it's March, Women's History Month.

It all began in 1978 when Sonoma County, California, sponsored a one week event honoring women and their achievements. It was originally held the week of March 8, until 1987, when Congress made it a month-long celebration. It's sole purpose was to encourage the schools to teach women's history, a topic that was often avoided.

So how do AHS students feel about celebrating Women's History Month? Senior Amber Stalcup said, "I think AHS should put an emphasis on *all* backgrounds regardless of whether it's their month or not. We all make up the 'Melting Pot' in America and we *all* should be recognized."

Some students, like senior Laura Hickerson, weren't even aware that it is Women's History Month.

And still yet some displayed their disapproval of history months altogether. Lindsey Dubree stated, "I think history months in general are ridiculous. Obviously there are definitely more minorities than there are months; why designate any?"

Senior Brian Inlow also shared the same opinion. He added, "I don't have anything against Women's History Month, but I don't think any history months should exist. In order to truly have equality no one should get special treatment, minority or majority."

Whether or not students agree or disagree with Women's History Month, AHS proudly supports the great women achievers throughout history.

Broke? Dateless? Come to AuxProm!

Joe Hilgard, humor editor and your DJ for this magical night

A humor editor wiser than I once gave me some advice on finding a prom date.

"One day, while your target is crossing the parking lot, have a friend try to run her over with his car. But then, in the nick of time, you tackle her out of the way, all hero-boy like. Then she'd owe you her life, and she'd have to go with you," he advised me.

Sadly, my friend's lead foot was faster than my fleet feet, and we buried our target not two weeks ago. Further less dangerous attempts to get a date were unfruitful, except that I think I have built up an immunity to Mace. Adding to my frustrations was my lack of sufficient prom funding. I was selling my blood plasma to keep myself supplied with saxophone reeds and Mountain Dew. But still, I have to attend prom, because it will be the "most magical night of my life." Or was that Disney World? In either case, prom is the night everyone gets to move up a base, sexually, so I can't lose out, can I? [Just KIDDING, AHS Administration and my parents! Parents of girls, too!]

As such, this year I will be holding the 2nd Annual AHS Auxiliary Prom in the Joe Pavilion located on the bottom floor of the Hilgard Complex. There will be no door charge, but attendance is by invitation only. The invite list reads as follows: Liz Hurley ("I'm in *Bedazzled*" Liz, not "I'm seven months pregnant" Liz), the reanimated corpse of Douglas Adams, Joe Hilgard, that babe who played Jackie Chan's sister in *Shanghai Knights*, Colin Powell, Jenna Bush (she's *the* party girl), and Beck. My dog is the doorman. Under no circumstances will Kim Jong Il make it into this dance, nor will Janet Reno.

The Auxiliary Prom, or AuxProm as we hipsters call it, is a convenient low-budget alternative to official school proms, without any of those expensive things like dinners, tuxedos, limousine rentals, or live DJs that, despite their wages, are still really lousy.

I and all zero guests attending dance with wacky fervor.

Speaking of which, AuxProm music will be provided by Tha Phattest Professor D.J. MC McIllin' MegaPhatSound, also known as my Winamp playlist. He gots the funky-fresh flow, so grab yo best ho and get on that dance flo'. Yo yo.

Dancing will not only be available, but enforced. Anyone not found dancing in the course of the evening will be moved to the adjacent room for a ride in the clothes-washer.

I still remember fondly last year's AuxProm. My lovely dates were a six-pack of Fitz's Root Beer and *Mystery Science Theater: The Movie*. While a gentleman never kisses and tells, I will go so far as to say that I "saw all of (nudge nudge)" *Mystery Science Theater* and that Fitz's Root Beer went down smooth and easy (wink wink), oh yeah.

In conclusion, one can safely say prom will most likely be the most magical and exciting night of your life with the sort of romance that can only be provided by loads of money and etc. etc. so be sure to waste this glorious night in my basement. Be there!

President Bush sticks his head in the sand

Jeff McDonald

As conflict with Iraq grows imminent, America's call to arms has become the subject of worldwide scrutiny. Many observers worry about what will become of Iraq, now referred to by experts as "America's petroleum playground". President George Bush promised that, after the war, he would find jobs for the 22 million impoverished Iraqi men and women no longer employed as human shields or helicopter target practice. The president's plan later drew harsh criticism when it was determined that Washington D.C. didn't really need another 22 million non-union taxi drivers.

The president's push for action has come under intense fire from the international community. When asked how he would offset the huge cost of war, Bush raised doubts with his "make money with tax cuts" strategy.

Nevertheless, his war plan was given strong endorsements from Latvia and Uzbekistan, influential members of the Committee of UN Countries No One Cares About.

In his recent interview with Dan Rather, Saddam Hussein showed little concern about the upcoming conflict. He did express his deep respect for Bush. "I have a great admiration for anyone who can execute that many of his own people," he said wistfully.

More tension erupted in the political arena yesterday afternoon, when the UN Secretary General took requests for lunch. After lengthy deliberation, the French representatives petitioned for Caesar salads. However, when Italy demanded spaghetti and meatballs, France quickly surrendered.

Hockey skates its way to conference champs

Blake Schrumpf, sports editor

The Alton High hockey team accomplished its main goal for the season. They defeated everyone and won first place in the Mississippi Valley Club Hockey Association (MVCHA). This was the first time the Redbirds had accomplished this goal.

The playoffs gave the Redbirds a chance to shine. They swept the Edwardsville Tigers in the first round of the playoffs.

> **"It was the best way to end my high school years."**
>
> ~ senior Jason Plunk.

The team refused to give up the season. The win over Edwardsville made them want victory even more. The next round was against Granite City. This would prove to be the hardest. Starting the series a game down, the Redbirds skated back to win the next two games.

The Redbirds were the North champs and the Belleville East Lancers were the South champs. They battled it out for the championship and the Redbirds didn't disappoint. Redbird fans were extremely faithful and stood behind their team the whole time. The Birds came out strong and took a commanding 1-0 lead in the best of three series. Game two was played at Fairview Heights. This was the chance for the Redbirds to sweep the Lancers two games to none.

Alton High's record breaking 2002-2003 hockey team poses for a picture after winning the MVCHA championship. Photo courtesy of Vern LeClaire.

The seniors led by Austin Luster pumped up the team before the game and reminded them how important this game was. It had never happened in Redbird history. The team listened and they wiped them out.

"The atmosphere was like none I have ever felt," said junior Tim Demunbrun.

The team rejoiced and exploded in happiness. The fans, players, and coaches were extremely proud. Reporters and photographers swarmed around the locker room to hear what the champs had to say and to take that perfect picture.

The season is now over but the memories of this wonderful season will never be forgotten. The amount of publicity and fan participation helped to give high school hockey the recognition it has been looking for..

"Winning the championship has been a dream of mine since I was a freshman," said senior Patrick Read.

The team is not ready to split up and let the seniors go. They have decided to participate in a few tournaments to have more good times together. The Redbirds proved to be the best and ended their wonderful season 28-5-5. The team has big hopes of winning the championship next year.

Upcoming Alton Varsity Baseball games

Tue. April 1	v. Belleville West	**Home**	4:15 p.m.
Thurs. April 3	v. East St. Louis	Away	4:15 p.m.
Sat. April 5	v. North County Baseball Tournament		
Mon. April 7	v. Roxana	**Home**	4:00 p.m.
Tue. April 8	v. O'Fallon	**Home**	4:15 p.m.
Thurs. April 10	v. Belleville East	Away	4:15 p.m.
Tue. April 15	v. Edwardsville	**Home**	4:15 p.m.
Thurs. April 17	v. Granite City	**Home**	4:15 p.m.
Sat. April 19	v. Jacksonville (DH)	**Home**	10:00 a.m.
Tue. April 22	v. Collinsville	Away	4:15 p.m.
Fri. April 25	v. Chaminade	Away	4:15 p.m.
Tue. April 29	v. Belleville West	Away	4:15 p.m.

The RBW fool-proof guide to a perfect prom night

Kristin Hammond and Erin Hill, reporters

GUYS

THE TUX-Listen up guys. Just like the girls, this is your most important purchase for the night. Remember that the fancier the tuxedo, the bigger the price. It doesn't have to be the most expensive to look good.

THE TICKET- This is solely your responsibility. If you have a date and wish to have one for next year's prom, you should make this a top priority. If your date offers to pay for her own way, it is your job to tell her, "That's ok, I want to buy it for you." After all, you knew what you were in for when you asked her to go with you to prom.

THE CORSAGE- It is customary for the guy to buy his date a corsage. Usually it is a good idea to know what color your date's dress is so that it will match. Whatever you do, make sure that her dress and the corsage don't clash.

THE LIMOUSINE- The transportation to prom is a very expensive extra. Not everyone arrives in a fancy mode of transportation but it is always nice to impress your date with a limousine. Try to get three or four couples together so it is cheaper, and if she offers to help pay for this part of the night, it's ok. Girls do know that you aren't made of money. Let her help with the limo if she offers. If she doesn't offer then you should start saving up just in case.

THE DINNER- This could possibly be the hardest part. First you have to pick somewhere good to eat. Next, make sure that it is dress friendly. Don't take your date somewhere where there is a chance of ruining her dress or looking overdressed. Try to take couples with you and your date to make it more enjoyable and comfortable for the both of you. The most important thing is to make reservations. Make them as soon as possible!

Photos courtesy of www.promdresses2003.com

GALS

THE DRESS-This is the most crucial part of the girl's agenda. Every year the style changes. This year, pastels and white have made a comeback and are the new rage. Girls...make sure, if anything else, that this is the first thing you get. Don't worry about anything else. You have to have a great dress for a great night!

THE TICKET- Everyone knows how expensive those prom tickets are. If you choose to go stag, which is perfectly fine, then of course it will be your responsibility to buy a ticket. If this sounds like you, then start saving up. If you have a date, maybe it would be nice to chip in. Would you like to be expected to pay for everything?

THE BOUTONNIERE-This is an ancient prom tradition. It is usually customary for the girl to buy a rose or carnation to be pinned onto his jacket, usually matching your dress color. This would be easiest to buy when your date orders your corsage.

PHOTOGRAPHS- Of course, there will be a photographer at the prom. This is an obvious responsibility of the girl. Girls love getting their picture taken and having pictures for memories or just to show them off. This process could be very costly. Remember that you could also take a camera and get a better variety of pictures. The choice is up to you, but remember that you don't need 100 wallet sized pictures of you and your date standing in front of balloons when you could have more interesting pictures outside or while you're having fun dancing the night away.

HAIR/NAILS/MAKE-UP- Girls, girls, girls. If you haven't payed attention to everything before this, then it's time to listen up. If you want to look good on prom night then you HAVE to make sure this is on top of your list right after the dress. If you look around the area, you will see that most beauty salons do all three of these things. Look on television to see what's in style and what you like, then round up the gang and go for it. Make sure you make your appointment, because those last minute manicures just don't do the job.